

31st May 2010

Dear EGI-InSPIRE project members:

Welcome! – it is my pleasure to contact you in this, the first of my monthly Director's Letters, which I will send out to all members of the EGI-InSPIRE project, now underway since the start of May.

EGI-InSPIRE is supporting the coordination of the European Grid Infrastructure, or EGI, on behalf of the EGI Collaboration – represented by its stakeholders, the National Grid Initiatives and European International Research Organisations that are participants in EGI.eu – through the EGI Council. The EGI has, until the beginning of this month, been cared for by Enabling Grids for E-sciencE. Under this new umbrella, EGI-InSPIRE gathers 51 beneficiaries, 141 partners, 39 National Grid Initiatives within Europe and 47 countries around the world.

In these Director's Letters I'll be sharing project developments. This will mean reflecting on what we've accomplished, examining where we are and anticipating our future challenges. It is good to begin this journey with all of you – I look forward to our travels.

An important news point, we are pleased to announce new crew members – about half of the job appointments for the central coordinating team (EGI.eu) have been made. EGI.eu is fortunate to have on board:

- Catherine Gater, Chief Administrative Officer and Dissemination Manager who will be leading the Management work package (WP1 and the Dissemination task TNA2.2)
- Tiziana Ferrari, Chief Operations Officer who will be leading the Operations workpackage (WP4)
- Stephen Brewer, Chief Community Officer who will be leading the User Community Coordination workpackage (WP3)
- Rob van der Meer, Organisation Manager who will be part of the project office and coordinating the Events task (TNA2.4)
- Sergio Andreozzi, Policy Development Manager who will be coordinating our Policy Development task (TNA2.3)
- Gergely Sipos, User Community Support Team who will be coordinating our own and the NGI support activities (TNA3.2 & TNA3.3)
- Els Dekker, Administrative Support Team who will be supporting us in doing all of the above!

These colleagues will be taking up their roles in Amsterdam over the next few months.

A lot of effort has been put into building up the project's infrastructure over the last few months. My thanks to the team at CESNET for their great support and for Nikhef for hosting us during the submission, negotiation and startup phases! More details of the resources that are available within the project are listed on the intranet page (<http://www.egi.eu/about/intranet>), which includes the wiki, mailing lists and Indico

meeting planner, all linked by our Single Sign On system. If you haven't yet signed up for an EGI account from this page, I encourage you to do so!

The next few weeks will see individual activities hosting their own kick-off meetings, which will enable the activity and task leaders to work with the partners that are signed up to each Work Package in order to implement the Description of Work. The project's Task Leaders will have their first face to face meeting on 10 June to ensure that the activities are working together effectively.

We are already in the thick of preparing the first deliverables and milestones. These include the quality and execution plans, metrics and document templates. As deliverables are released they will be made available through our documents repository (documents.egi.eu) where you can always see recent additions. This will become a great place to go to find a presentation on one of EGI-InSPIRE's activities.

Our website, www.egi.eu, is under development and its associated wiki is starting to be populated at <https://wiki.egi.eu/wiki>. These will be works in progress for the next month or so. Please be patient with us as we work to make these sites excellent sources of information for you.

Plans for the first major EGI event – the first Technical Forum – are fully underway. The first forum will be held at the stunning Bers van Berlage in Amsterdam, 14-17 September 2010 (<http://www.egi.eu/EGITF2010>). The programme committee is working on the draft programme, and this will be released soon.

Without a doubt we have a challenging agenda ahead of us. Some details of how we will accomplish our goals are not yet clear. However we'll be working hard to keep everyone informed of progress – in particular we are looking for the NGIs and user communities to help us really bring the project to the life.

Until next month then!

Yours sincerely,



Steven Newhouse
EGI-InSPIRE Project Director

Events. To advertise both project and general community events please email events@egi.eu